



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MORE DIAPREPES ROOT WEEVILS FOUND IN COUNTY ***Additional Quarantine Areas Established for Exotic Pests That Damage Crops, Plants***

Additional Diaprepes Root Weevils have been found in Oceanside, La Jolla and in the eastern end of Carmel Valley near the Fairbanks Ranch/Rancho Santa Fe Quarantine area. As a result, an additional quarantine has been ordered in Oceanside, and the quarantine areas in Fairbanks Ranch and La Jolla have been expanded. Other areas already under quarantine include University City, and portions of the cities of Del Mar, Carlsbad and Encinitas.

"We have been working with the local agricultural industry and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish protocols for the nursery industry," said County Agricultural Commissioner Robert Atkins. "Our goal is to control the spread and eradicate this pest while allowing nurseries to ship their product."

The Fairbanks Ranch quarantine area extension is of serious concern to agricultural officials because the root weevil has been found in a large nursery. The agricultural value of the nursery industry in San Diego County is \$1 billion; the largest of any county in California. Not only does the the Diaprepes Root Weevil threaten local agriculture, but statewide agriculture as well. This pest has been found on more than 270 species of plants, including citrus and ornamental plants.

Diaprepes Root Weevils, native to the Caribbean, generally infest Florida and parts of Texas. Adult weevils feed on plant leaves while the larvae feed on plant roots. Adults are three-quarters of an inch in length, with markings on their backs ranging from black and orange to cream-colored.

All plants, soil, sand, gravel, plant parts and clippings are subject to restrictions and the public is being asked to contact the **CDFA Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899** before moving any of these items out of the quarantine areas. The public's cooperation in implementing this quarantine is greatly appreciated. The public can help by reporting suspicious bugs on the CDFA Pest Hotline or by calling 619-698-1046. For more information, visit the County's Agriculture, Weights and Measures Web site at www.sdcawm.org.

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